

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly comprised of a plurality of spaced apart vertical frame members arranged in a common plane, each frame member having a plurality of support brackets attached thereto;

a plurality of individual facing panel members having a front side, a mounting side, a top portion and a bottom portion, the mounting side including means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panel members to said support brackets such that [individual cavities are] at least one unobstructed cavity is formed creating a linear path between all of the plurality of vertical frame members which comprise the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels; and

a crown member attached to a top portion of the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to mount thereon office furniture accessories.

2. (Currently Amended) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, [wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and] further comprising a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels attached to [each of said opposing sides whereby] at least two of the plurality of vertical frame members so that a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the mounting side of said facing panels further comprises a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side.

7. (Previously Presented) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of support brackets further comprises top support brackets, bottom support brackets and intermediate support brackets.

8. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein said top support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of said facing panels, said bottom support brackets are adapted to be attached to the bottom portion of said facing panels, and said intermediate support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of one of said facing panels and to the bottom portion of another of said facing panels.

9. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, [wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and] further comprising a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels secured to [each of said opposing sides whereby] at least two of the plurality of vertical frame members so that a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

10. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said bottom support brackets are also adapted to be mechanically secured to said bottom facing panels.

11. (Previously Presented) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of facing panels are removably mounted to said rigid frame assembly.

12. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said intermediate support brackets further comprise an upper facing panel attachment member adapted to be pivotally attached to the top portion of the one of said facing panels and a lower facing panel attachment member adapted to be frictionally attached to the bottom portion of the other of said facing panels.

13. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame assembly further comprises base members for supporting the panel assembly in a freestanding manner.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of individual facing panel members are mounted between the crown member and said bottom facing panels such that a first horizontal joint exists between one of said individual facing panel members and one of said bottom facing panels and a second horizontal joint exists between another of said individual facing panel members and the crown member.

16. (Original) The panel assembly as recited in claim 15, further comprising a third horizontal joint between said one individual facing panel member and said another individual facing panel member, whereby said horizontal joints provide a passageway for cabling.

17. (Previously Presented) A panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly;

a facing panel assembly;

means for mounting the facing panel assembly to the rigid frame assembly whereby an unobstructed cavity is formed between the rigid frame assembly and the facing panel assembly;

and